



Figure 6.8. Bay scallop landings (bushels) from the top two areas in North Carolina, 1972-2004. DMF Trip Ticket Program.

#### 6.1.2.6 CHARACTERIZATION OF BAY SCALLOP TRIPS AND CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT

There are pronounced year-to-year fluctuations in the number of trips harvesting bay scallops. The annual number of trips has declined since 1994 with the highest number of trips occurring in 1995 (Figure 6.9). Adverse weather conditions (i.e., hurricanes, cold winters) can impact the annual landings. Hurricane Floyd, Tropical storm Dennis (1999) and Hurricane Isabel (2003) likely decreased bay scallop harvest in the following year. Most trips (98%) harvested less than 25 bushels of bay scallops (Figure 6.10). Forty-six percent of the trips harvested were between 15 to 20 bushels of bay scallops from 1994 to 2004.

Occasionally, bay scallop fishermen have been known to sell their catch from more than one trip to a licensed dealer at one time. This likely accounts for trip tickets that reported more than the allowable limit, but it could also inflate the catch per unit effort (bushels per trip). However, it is not known to what extent this occurs (C. Burgess, DMF, personal communication 2005).